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Richard III: His Life and Character. Reviewed in the Light of Recent Research. By Sir CLEMENTS R. MARKHAM, K.C.B. London: Smith Elder and Company; New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1906. Pp. xix, 327.)

THE appearance of a life of the last Plantagenet king by one of his most ardent admirers, Sir Clements Markham, did not come altogether as a surprise to students of English history. It was foreshadowed some fifteen years ago when Sir Clements, then Mr. Markham, contributed a long article on Richard III. to the *English Historical Review* in which he attempted to clear that king's character of all stain and convict his successor, Henry VII., of the murder of the sons of Edward IV. Unfortunately for his contentions Mr. James Gairdner entered the lists on behalf of the Lancastrians and Tudors and, in a subsequent number of the *Review*, vigorously repelled the accusation against Henry, showing the weakness of many of the arguments used by Mr. Markham.

The fact that the character of Richard III. was unduly blackened by the Tudor historians of the later fifteenth century, combined with the scarcity of strictly contemporary evidence as to his deeds, was bound, sooner or later, to cause a reaction in his favor. This reaction has shown itself in the biography by Sir George Buck, published about the middle of the seventeenth century, in Horace Walpole's *Historic Doubts* (1768), and in biographies by Halsted (1844) and by Legge (1885). The most authoritative biographer, however, Mr. James Gairdner, takes what is on the whole an adverse view of Richard's character and is inclined to hold him guilty of the murder of the young princes until he can be clearly proved innocent. At the same time Mr. Gairdner does much to clear the record of Richard's reign from unjust charges of maladministration.

In an interesting preface to his biography Sir Clements tells us how he came to be a defender of Richard III. and to bring out the present imposing life of him. Encouraged by several well-known English historians of the later nineteenth century he has carried the controversy over the character and deeds of Richard III. a step further and has given us a remarkable panegyric. The first part, containing eleven somewhat brief chapters, is a somewhat highly colored and partizan account of Richard's life and the fortunes of the Yorkists and Lancastrians. It closes with a spirited description of the battle of Bosworth in which Richard is made the hero while "Henry Tudor was skulking in the rear". It is hardly worth while to criticize this first portion of the biography in detail, nor would our space permit so doing, for it is clearly partizan throughout, exalting the conduct and character of the Yorkists and debasing the Lancastrians. Every charge against the former faction is repudiated and the authorities declared unreliable, while the same authorities are accepted if the story is to the discredit of the Lancastrians. Richard is truly "acquitted on all counts of the indictment" but the trial and verdict is not by an impartial judge.

The second part of the book is given up to a detailed examination of the various charges against Richard and the attempted proving of his innocence, after which, in part II., ch. v., we have "Henry Tudor in the Dock" and this unfortunate prince is shown to be the real criminal and to have used Richard as a shield. It is only surprising that Henry VII. is not made responsible for the murders of Henry VI. and of Clarence as well. Another statesman whose character is blackened by Sir Clements is Cardinal Morton, whom he holds responsible for practically all the charges against Richard III. found in the contemporary chronicles and for the *Life of Richard III.* usually attributed to Sir Thomas More. Every obscure reference in the sources of the time is made definite and full of meaning—"the children" referred to in July, 1484, can be none other than the young princes, still alive, "the Lord Bastard" of 1485 is certainly the young Edward V., because he is called "Lord" and not just "Bastard". And so it is assumed that the survival of the princes into the reign of Henry VII. is proved, Richard is entirely guiltless of their death, as he has been shown to be of all other crimes charged against him, and Henry VII. is the villain of the later fifteenth century. The reasoning that Sir Clements Markham uses is very ingenious but hardly convincing, and he does not improve his case by attempting in his closing chapter to show that Mr. Gairdner is inconsistent in his portrayal of Richard.

Historically speaking such a work is a mistake. A calm, careful, judicious examination of the evidence in regard to Richard III. has already been made by Mr. Gairdner and his judgment is that unless fresh original material can be discovered we must continue to accept in large part the traditional view as to his moral character. Sir Clements Markham does not bring forward new evidence of any great value and yet he acquits Richard of all crime or baseness, making him a model son and brother, a noble king, and a loving uncle. The picture he gives of Richard is far more inconsistent with what is certainly known of him than that given by Mr. Gairdner in his excellent biography.

Nothing but praise can be bestowed on the general appearance and typography of Sir Clements's book. There is an admirable portrait of the king prefixed to it, a number of interesting tables and genealogies, and in the back an excellent map of the battle of Bosworth. Errors in printing are seemingly lacking and the style of the book is thoroughly readable and clear.

N. M. TRENHOLME.

The Censorship of the Church of Rome and its Influence upon the Production and Distribution of Literature. Volume II. By GEORGE HAVEN PUTNAM, Litt.D. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1907. Pp. vi, 510.)

IN the first volume of his *Censorship of the Church of Rome*, Dr. Putnam had carried the history of Indexes other than Roman down to